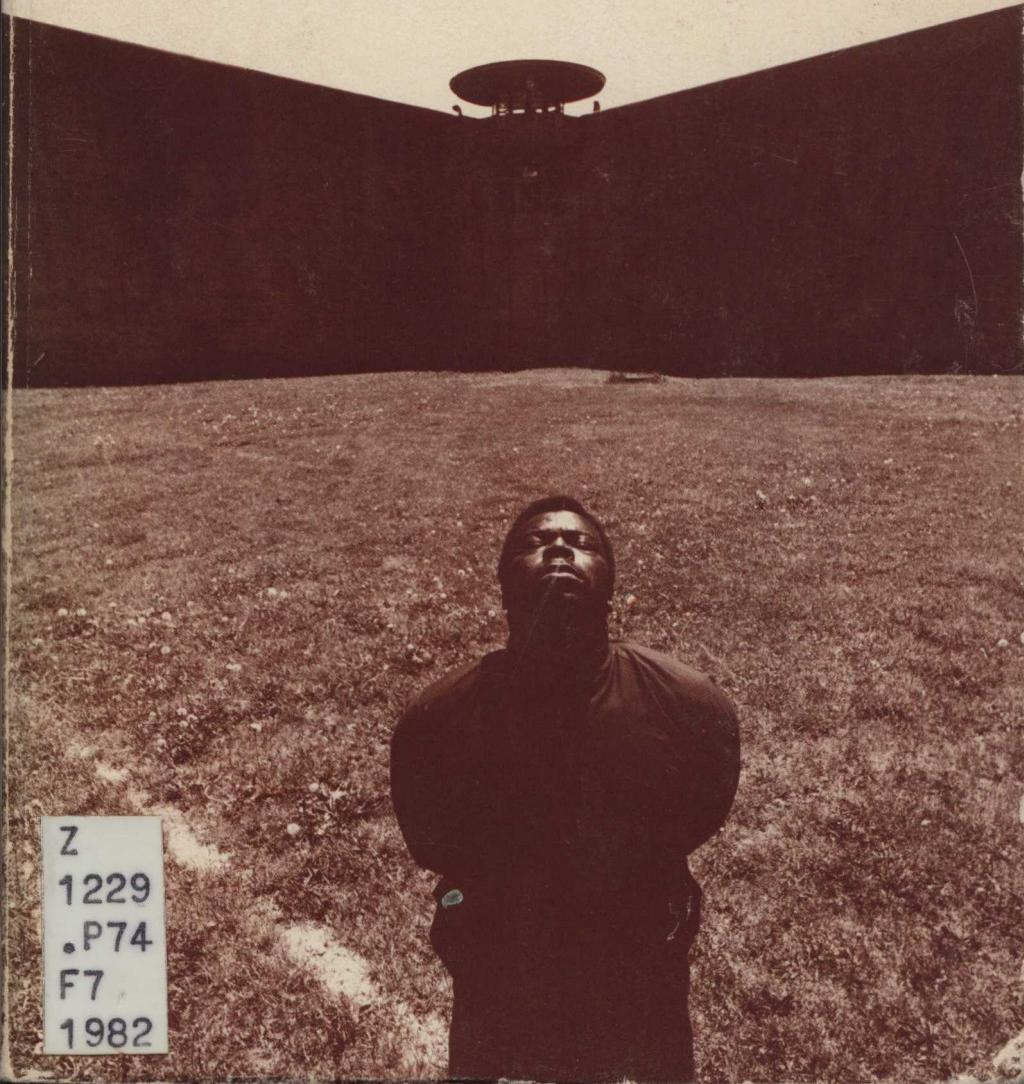


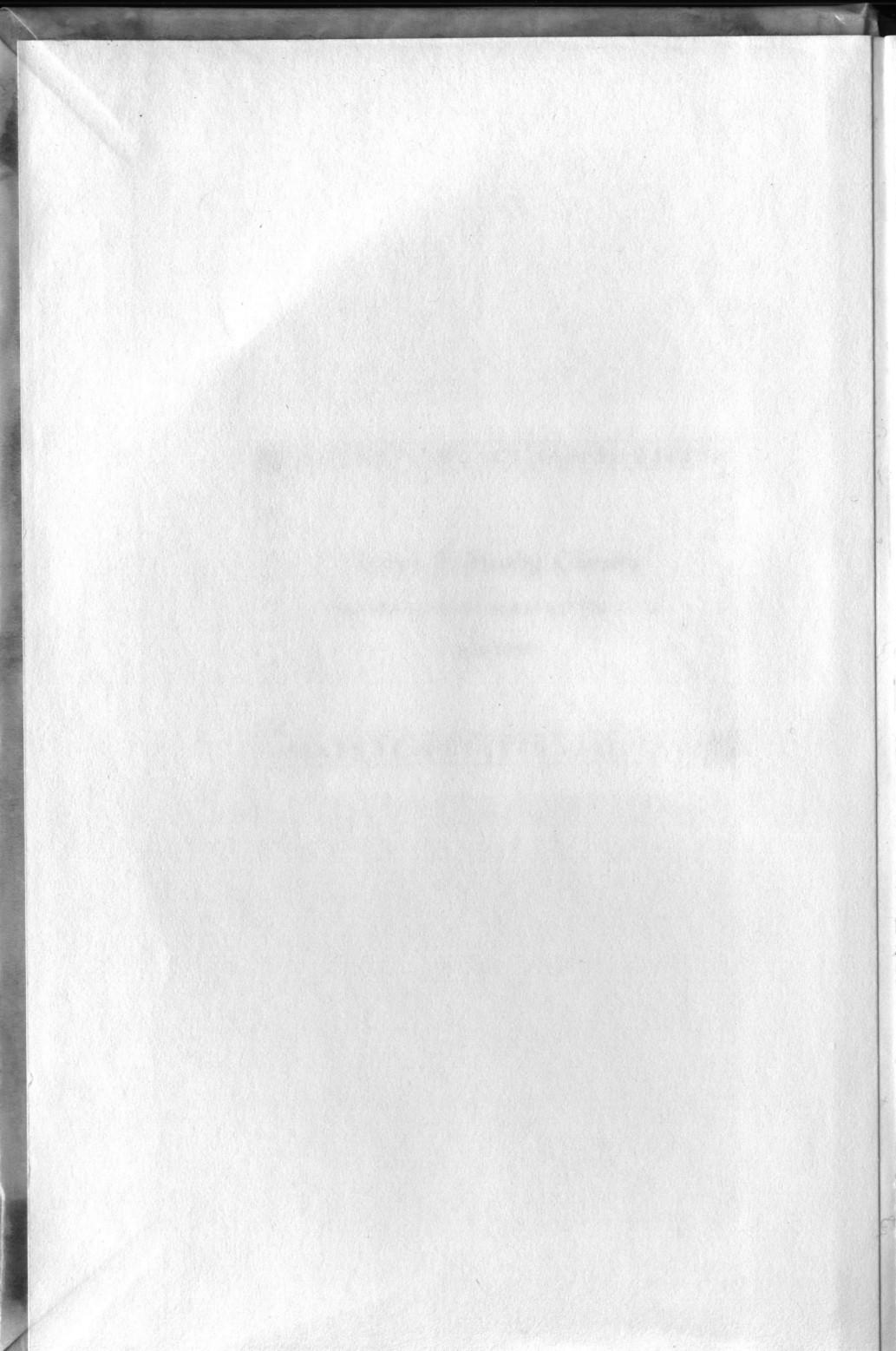
# American Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners: Their Writings

An Annotated Bibliography of Published Works

**H. Bruce Franklin**

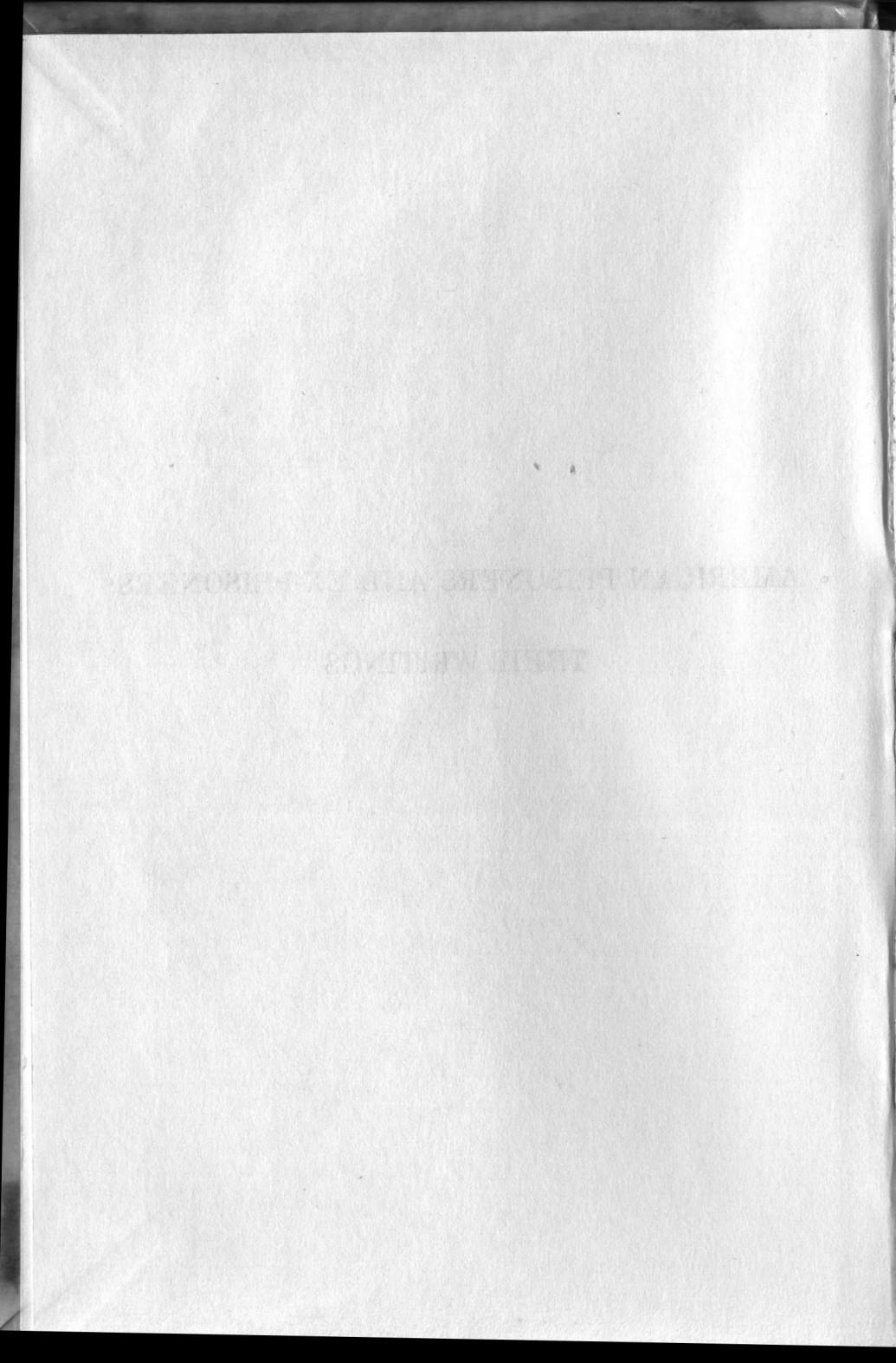


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**AMERICAN PRISONERS AND EX-PRISONERS:**

**THEIR WRITINGS**



# **American Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners: Their Writings**

**An Annotated Bibliography  
of Published Works, 1798-1981**

**H. Bruce Franklin**

**LAWRENCE HILL & COMPANY**  
Westport, Connecticut

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## **Introduction**

When I first published *The Victim as Criminal and Artist: Literature from the American Prison* in 1978, I included an appendix entitled "An Annotated Bibliography of Literature by Convicts: 1800-1977." This was the first attempt to provide an extensive bibliography of materials published by American prisoners and ex-prisoners in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

It was my intention to revise and expand the bibliography for inclusion in the 1982 revised paperback edition published by Lawrence Hill & Company, now entitled *Prison Literature in America: The Victim as Criminal and Artist*. But in the past four years so many new books by American prisoners have been published and so many overlooked works have come to light that the revised and updated bibliography could no longer fit into a moderately priced paperback. Hence the publication of this present bibliography as both a companion volume and as an independent tool for further research.

This is inherently a difficult area for bibliography. For the earlier literature, there is the ground-breaking *A Guide to Material on Crime and Criminal Justice* by Augustus F. Kuhlman (1929), with corrections and author index by Dorothy Campbell Culver (Montclair, N.J.: Patterson Smith, 1969), which includes some listings of literature by convicts and criminals, mostly personal narratives. This does not attempt to

distinguish between authentic autobiographies and sensationalized narratives palmed off as "confessions" by notorious criminals. Dorothy Campbell Culver's updates of Kuhlman, *Bibliography of Crime and Criminal Justice, 1927-1931* and *1932-1937* (Montclair, N.J.: Patterson Smith, 1969), add some newer works, but literature by convicts is not indexed in her successor volumes covering the 1938 to 1965 period. *Barred Visions: A Bibliography of Materials by Prisoners*, compiled by Rhea Joyce Rubin (Chicago Public Library, 1974, with mimeographed updates in 1975), lists quite a few English-language materials published since 1950, including British writings and foreign works translated into English. The *Fortune News*, a journal published by the Fortune Society, is an excellent source for current publications. Rudolf Engelbart's *Books in Stir: A Bibliographic Essay...* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1972) lists and discusses a few dozen works. Herman K. Spector's *San Quentiniana: Books Published by Officials and Inmates of San Quentin* (San Quentin, 1953) gives some biographical and bibliographic facts on eleven San Quentin author-inmates. The June-July 1974 issue of *Margins: A Review of Little Mags and Small Press Books* contains a thirty-page section on prison writing, edited by Joseph Bruchac, with very helpful bibliographic information not available elsewhere. *Imprisoned in America; Prison Communications: 1776 to Attica*, edited by Cynthia Owen Philip (New York: Harper & Row, 1973), is a valuable source of information about letters by American prisoners, a form I have not included unless the letters were published as a book. In 1979 appeared Daniel Suvak's far-reaching *Memoirs of American Prisons: An Annotated Bibliography* (Metuchen, N.J., Scarecrow Press), which incorporates descriptions of prison life by officials, reporters, teachers, chaplains, etc., and includes a separate section on military prisoners (with a valuable list of narratives about World War II "relocation centers" as well as extensive records of works by prisoners of war), a category I do not cover. Suvak does not attempt to include literature by convicts that does not deal directly with their prison experience.

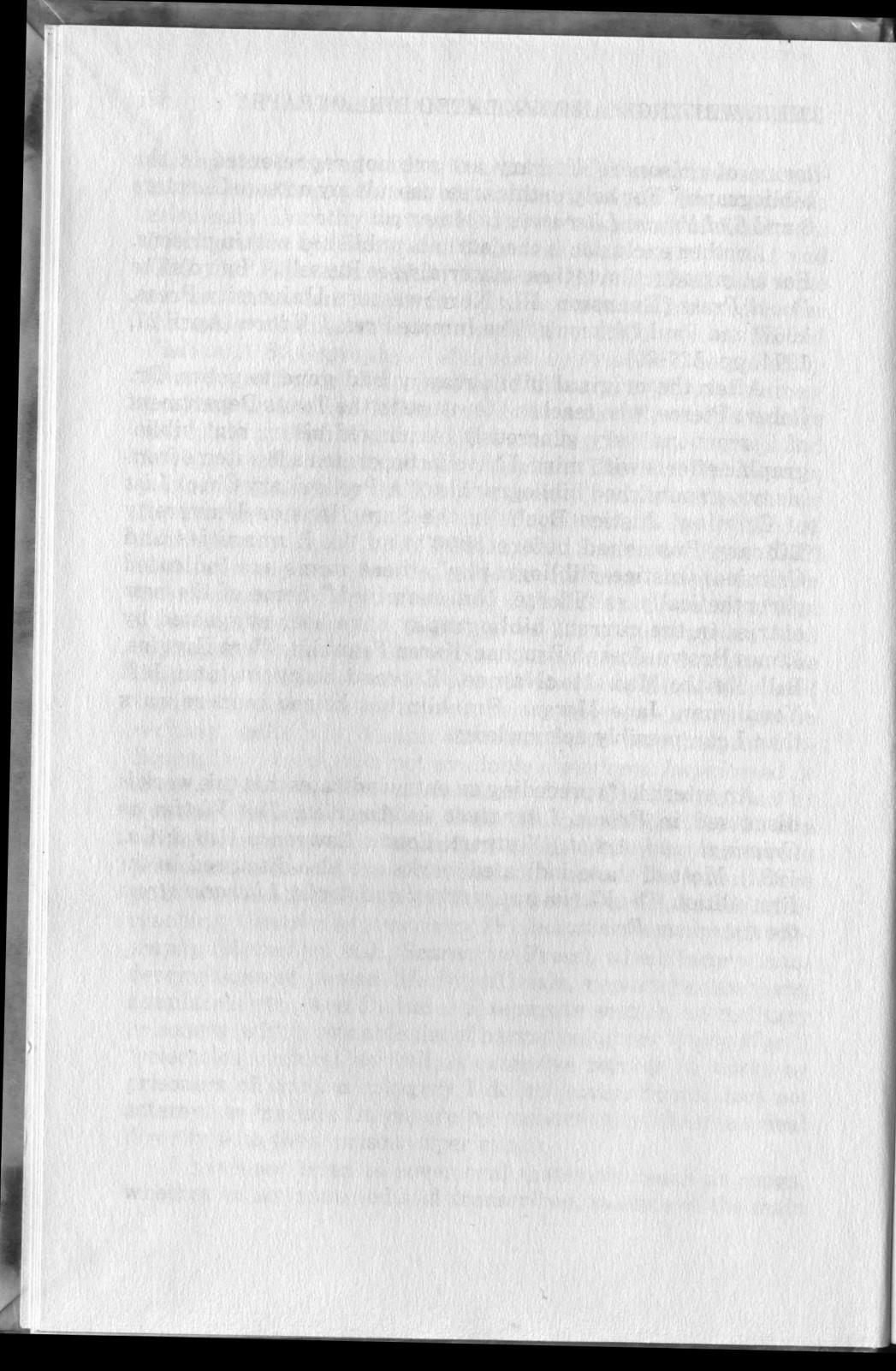
I have not tried to cover oral materials, such as songs, whether or not recorded and transcribed, so some of the main

forms of prisoners' literary art are not represented in the bibliography. For help in this area, consult my notes to Chapters 3 and 6 of *Prison Literature in America*.

Another exclusion is the journals published within prisons. For an introduction to these materials, see Russell N. Baird's *The Penal Press* (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1967) and Paul Dickson's "The Inmate Press," *Nation* (April 27, 1974, pp. 527-30).

After the original bibliography had gone to press, Dr. Robert Pierce, who teaches literature in the Texas Department of Corrections, very generously exchanged his current bibliographic efforts with mine. I have incorporated a few items from his two unpublished bibliographies, "A Preliminary Check List of Criminal Justice Books in the Sam Houston University Library Published before 1900" and "A Humanities and Criminal Justice Bibliography"; these items are indicated parenthetically as "Pierce. Not examined." Some of the new entries in the current bibliography have been suggested by James Brown, Joseph Bruchac, Karen Franklin, Flora Higgins, Bill Keith, Max MacNamee, Edward Sagarin, and Jeff Youdleman. Jane Morgan Franklin has helped in more ways than I can possibly acknowledge.

An asterisk (\*) preceding an entry indicates that this work is discussed in *Prison Literature in America: The Victim as Criminal and Artist* (Westport, Conn.: Lawrence Hill & Co., 1982). Most of these indicated works are also discussed in the first edition, *The Victim as Criminal and Artist: Literature from the American Prison*.



**AMERICAN PRISONERS AND EX-PRISONERS  
THEIR WRITINGS**

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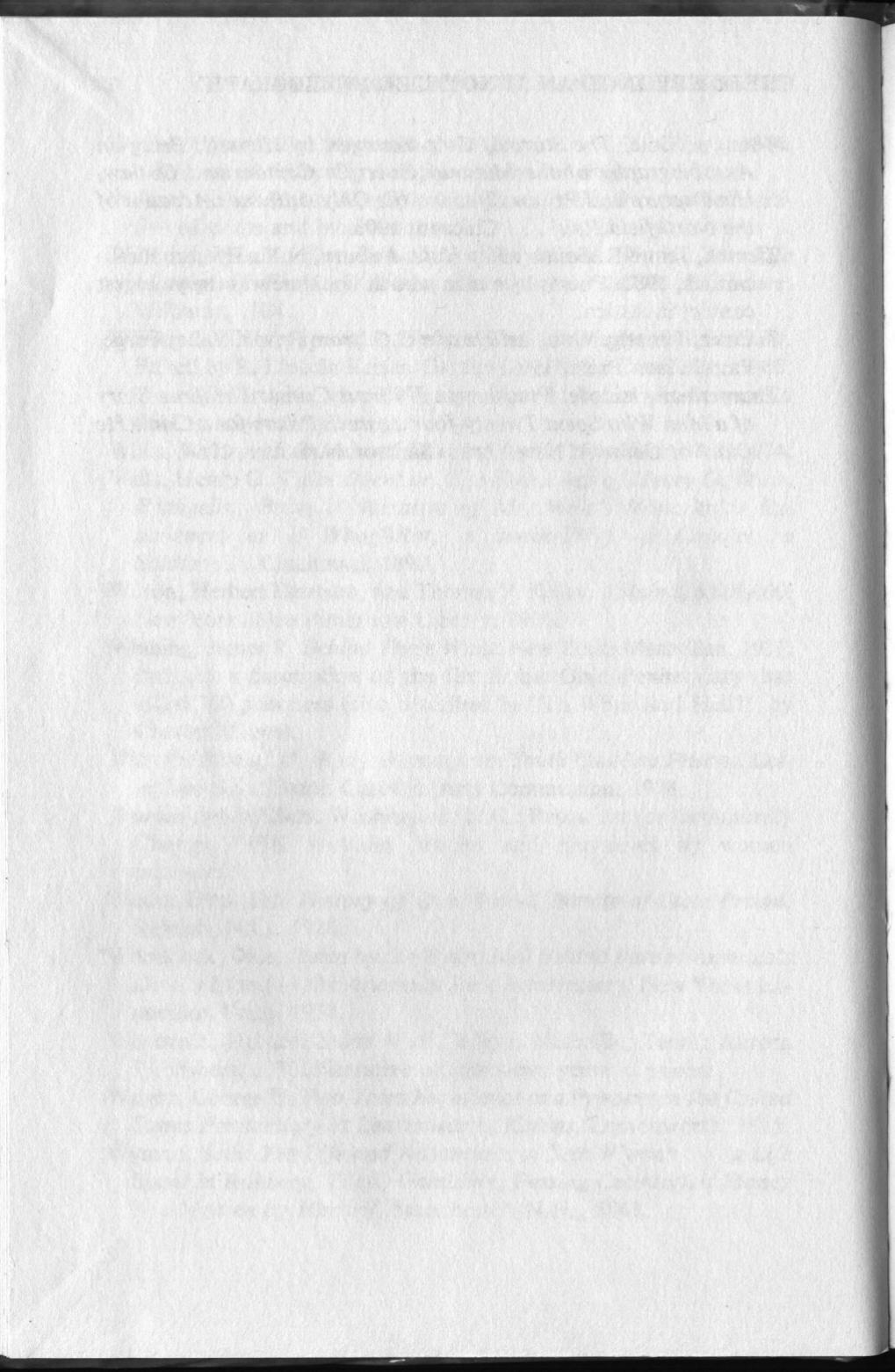
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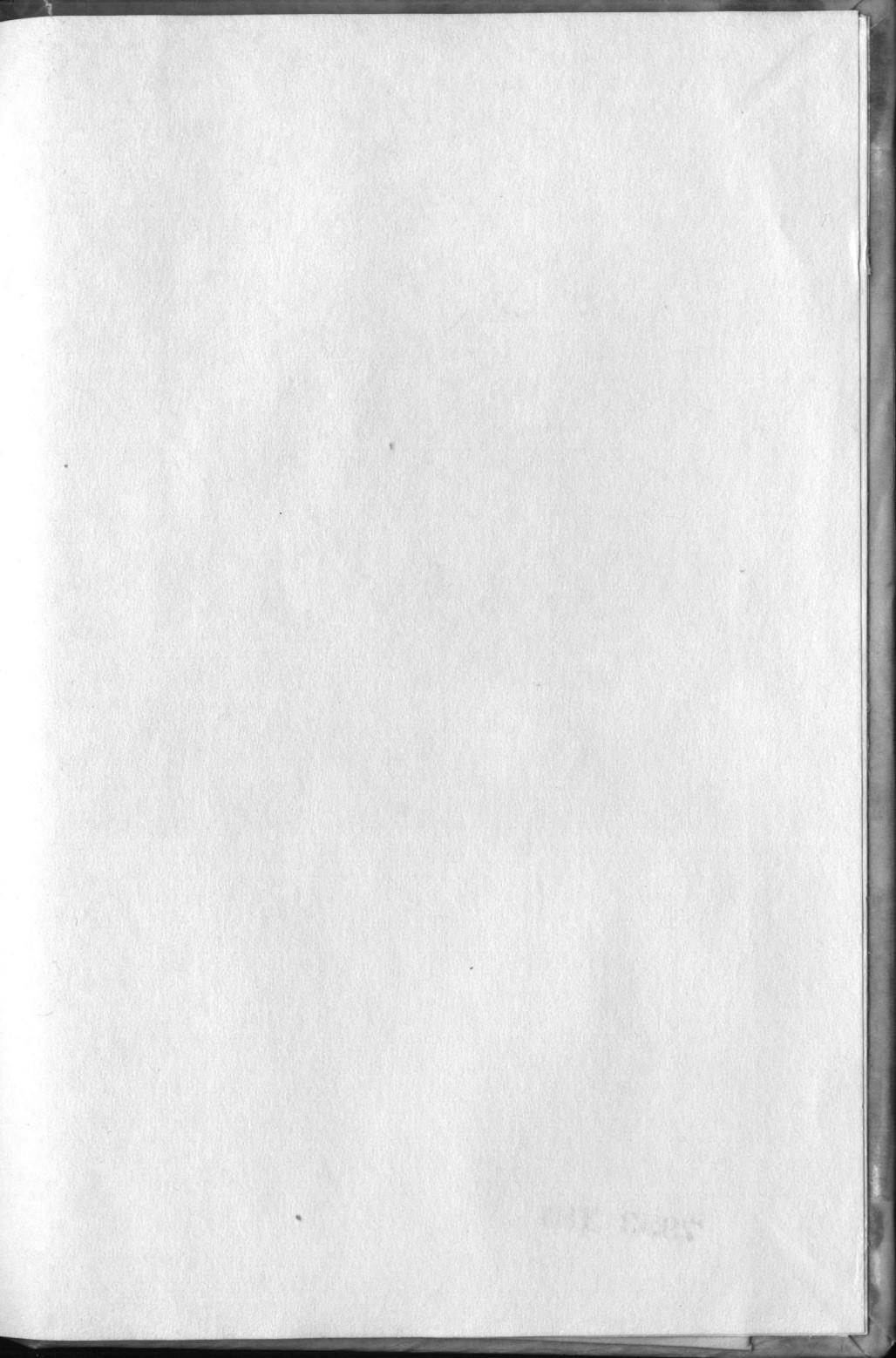
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